



School newsletter 28th November 2024



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Headteacher's insight

As we approach December and the festive season begins to sparkle with excitement, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the true magic of Christmas and the joy that comes with spending this special time with loved ones.

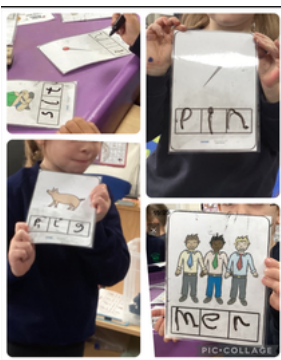
For many, Christmas is a time of celebration, filled with twinkling lights, delicious food, and the fun of exchanging gifts. From the moment we see the first signs of Christmas decorations in the shops to the final Christmas card arriving in the post, there's a sense of wonder that fills the air. But while all of these traditions and festivities are a big part of Christmas, there's one thing that stands out above all else – and that is the importance of family. At this time of year, we often find ourselves rushing around to get everything ready: buying presents, planning meals, decorating our homes. But in all this busyness, it's important to remember what makes Christmas truly special – the chance to come together with those we love. Whether it's spending time with parents, siblings, grandparents, or close friends, it is the shared moments and memories that bring warmth and meaning to this time of year.

The magic of Christmas doesn't come from the presents we unwrap or the decorations we hang, but from the togetherness we experience. It's in the laughter shared over a festive meal, the joy of playing games together, and the love that fills our homes. At school, we often talk about the importance of teamwork, kindness, and community. Christmas is the perfect time to practice these values, not just within the school gates, but in our homes and with our families. As a school, we are a family of our own. Our staff and pupils strive to create a supportive and caring environment, where everyone feels valued. This same sense of togetherness is at the heart of Christmas. It reminds us that we are not alone in the world – we are part of a greater whole, bound together by love, care, and kindness.

Another important aspect of Christmas is the act of giving. While we often think about giving presents, Christmas also invites us to give something even more meaningful – our time, our attention, and our love. I encourage families to take time this season to reflect on what truly matters. It could be something as simple as helping a neighbour, sending a thoughtful card, or simply spending quality time together. The gift of presence – being truly present for one another – is often the most valuable gift we can give. As we enjoy the magic of Christmas, it's a good time to pause and appreciate the people closest to us. Family means different things to different people. For some, it's a group of relatives – parents, siblings, grandparents – who come together to celebrate. For others, family may also include close friends, neighbours, or members of our wider community who offer support, love, and care.

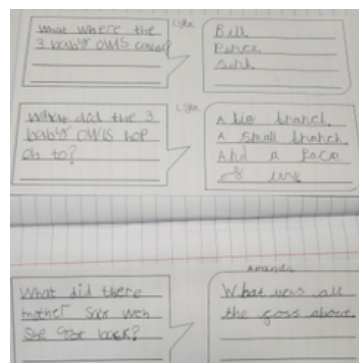
Family is the foundation upon which we build our sense of belonging. It's where we learn the values that guide us through life – kindness, empathy, respect, and love. Christmas is a reminder to cherish these bonds and to make the most of the time we have together. In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, it can be easy to take our loved ones for granted. But Christmas invites us to pause, to be present, and to appreciate the gift of family. The next three weeks are set to be busy as we drive forward to conclude our Autumn term curriculum across all subjects and enjoy together the programme of festive activities we have planned. Our warmth, patience and support of each other will be called upon and I thank you in advance for your contribution to this.

News from our classrooms



EYFS

Last week, the children in dolphins class used their segmenting skills to write CVC words. The children were thoroughly engaged in this activity and it showcased how far they have come with their phonics skills.



Key Stage 1

This week in Starfish Class, we completed our work on Owl Babies.

We wrote questions for each other based on the text and then answered each other's questions.

We have enjoyed this book very much. Particularly the parts where Bill said, "I want my mummy!"



Key Stage 2

Jellyfish class made our own Roman army shields and then marched in the playground as part of our History learning. We were a menacing sight!

In science, we have been closely studying rocks and had a go at drawing some in detail. We also made our own replica fossils.

It's been fun learning about these things!



Name: Mrs Chapman-Burton

Role: Interim Executive Deputy Headteacher

What do you love about your job? Working with children in the classroom. Reading them stories using lots of silly voices!

Favourites

Subject: History

Food: Pizza and sour sweets

Animal: Dogs

Children's book: All of the Harry Potter books

Celebration Corner



Spotted by staff:

Hazar (Starfish) for his very impressive pre-cursive handwriting in his English work this week.

Maya (Jellyfish) for their concentration and knowledge when analysing the features of a text.

Xander (Dolphins) for showing kindness to a friend this week during English work.





This week we wish these members of our school family a very happy birthday:

Antonia (Jellyfish)

Maxine (Stingrays)



Upcoming events and reminders

Key upcoming dates:

November

29th - 9.15am Year 4 and 5 class assembly

December

12th - Christmas lunch

12th - Winter jumper day

16th - Nativity performances 9.30 and 2.30

18th - Panto trip (whole school)

19th - Carol concert and winter warmer event

20th - Last day of term



We are launching our school Facebook page and would like your support in engaging with our accounts.

We will be posting at least twice a week during term time and on these social media platforms you will gain an insight in learning at Fen Ditton Primary that you won't find elsewhere.

Please do follow our page and engage with our posts by liking or commenting on them.

May we please take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that there is an expectation that all earrings are removed for PE days if the child can not remove the earrings themselves. This is important to protect your child and other children in the class.

It is not safe to cover ear-rings / studs / sleepers with tape. The reason is both because of the potential tearing of the ear lobe, but also the very slim chance that the post of the ear-ring could damage the neck which is where the brachial nerve is running directly to the brain. There are anecdotal cases of children wearing ear-rings / studs with plasters over being hit by a ball or coming off worse in a collision and having nasty injuries as a consequence. Injuries resulting from these incidents could be life lasting to the child. Where a child needs to keep their earrings in, there are 'retainers' that are soft and flexible which can be worn in the ear (both earring and backing) safely. These can not be mixed with standard earrings to mitigate risk.

Where a child can not remove their earrings, they will never be excluded from PE lessons as it is an essential part of the curriculum. However, children may be limited to low risk activities (practicing isolated skills) and will have to take on leadership roles when their peers are involved with higher risk activities (football, gymnastics, dodgeball etc).

We appreciate your support with ensuring the safety of you own children and other students in the school. If you wish to have more information on the soft retainer earrings, please contact your class teacher.

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